

# COUNCIL ORDERS GET TOUGH POLICY ON FRINGE AREA ROAD BARRICADES

## WEATHER

Low clouds are expected this morning by the U. S. Weather Bureau but they should be followed by mostly sunny skies with some high cloudiness this afternoon and little change in temperature, with a high near 78.

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## Council Orders Protest

Cities on the fringe of Torrance who insist on barricading streets to insure exclusiveness were labeled foolish this week by Councilman Willys C. Blount, whose motion to send off a couple of letters on the subject received unanimous approval of the Council.

The "iron curtain" routine followed diligently by the City of Palos Verdes was brought up again this week by Felix H. McGinnis, attorney for the Ellinwood Corp., who protested the closing of five streets which would connect up with Ellinwood development south of Pacific Coast Hwy. Streets closed last fall by Palos Verdes included Via Colusa, Via Las Vegas, Via Ardilla, Via Cordelina, and Via Miraleste. The city abandoned a portion of the streets to preclude any Torrance traffic from entering Palos Verdes.

"We've saved their hides several times," Councilman Blount said Tuesday. He explained that the Torrance Fire Department had made several trips into the area to assist in fighting threatening fires and that sometimes the entry to Palos Verdes was made difficult by traffic on the one or two roads which are open into the area.

"I know how we could solve this thing real quick," Blount said. "We could barricade Palos Verdes Blvd., Hawthorn Ave. and Crenshaw, and make the Palos Verdes residents go through San Pedro to get out of there. That would only take about 48 hours," he added.

At the same time Blount moved to send a letter to Palos Verdes asking them to cooperate with Torrance in opening some of the streets; he suggested that a similar letter be sent to Redondo protesting their barricade stuck up across Palos Verdes Blvd., which is a secondary major highway in the county's master plan of streets. The letters were ordered by unanimous vote of the Council.

## Statute Cited in Action

A legal action seeking to set aside action of the City Council and City Planning Commission in approving a variance for a mortuary at Engracia and Cravens has been filed in Superior Court, it was learned here this week.

Mayor Nicholas O. Drale was served with notice of the suit this week, according to City Attorney James M. Hall.

In the action, filed by Attorney Jack Stearns of Manhattan Beach, the city is directed to comply with Ordinance 612 or to show cause why it should not be required to comply.

No hearing date for the matter has been set.

Hearings lengthy approval of the application of Henry Halverson for a variance to permit construction of a mortuary on the southwest corner of the Cravens-Engracia intersection was granted recently following a drawn-out series of hearings and delays to the controversial subject.

Attorney Stearns, who represented Harry Massie and Earl Miller at that time, protested the variance under provisions of Ordinance 612 by saying the city had failed to establish legal ownership of the property, that the applicant had failed to establish that there are special conditions which apply to the property, that the Planning Commission had failed to find that the variance was necessary to protect a valuable property, that it had not been shown that the variance would not damage adjoining property, that the application for variance does not set forth in detail facts which would justify granting of such variance, and that no evidence had been offered to show that the applicant could proceed with the proposed construction if the variance was granted.

Stearns said earlier that any appeal from the Council's approval of the variance would be based on these objections.

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## Vandals Show Culture

A pair of young vandals showed that they have culture in their souls when they broke into the Fern Ave. School Friday. The youths brewed themselves a pot of tea and ate Graham crackers in the basement after using and carefully replacing an adding machine upstairs, police reports reveal.

## CHACE CALLS HIGHWAY ALLOCATIONS 'UNFAIR'

The \$278,069 allocated by the Federal government for use on secondary highways in Los Angeles County in 1954 is "a very unfair return from the tremendous Federal gas tax paid by County citizens," Supervisor Burton W. Chace said Tuesday.

The supervisor pointed out that Los Angeles County has the largest motor vehicle registration of any county in the United States and last year paid about 31 million dollars in Federal gas taxes. "Yet, because of an archaic formula drawn up in 1916, the county receives for secondary highway system a mere pittance in proportion to what is paid," Chace said.

Originally drawn up to take care of mail deliveries and farm-to-market roads in rural areas, the formula for distribution of Federal funds for secondary highway systems in counties has not been revised to care for the problem of the tremendous urbanization of county areas in metropolitan sectors such as Los Angeles, the supervisor said.

Chace said he felt that the Board of Supervisors should urge the California delegation in Congress to take positive action at the next session of Congress to seek a fair and more realistic distribution of Federal funds for secondary highway systems in county areas.

# Suit Filed to Stop Mortuary

## Great Lakes Begins Work On Open Pit Diatom Mine

Top soil and overburden are now being stripped from Great Lakes Carbon Corp.'s new Radar Hill diatomite deposit, it was reported yesterday by E. A. Harris, operations manager of the Dicalite Division, where the diatomite will be processed after removal from its present site.

Original plans were to start the operation sooner, but additional time was required for the necessary planning and engineering, Harris said.



A QUEEN'S DREAM . . . Actor Jack Palance shows Shirlee Garner, "Miss Torrance" runner up, set of "The Silver Chalice," now being filmed at Warner Bros. Miss Garner is making screen tests for the studio.

An exploratory survey was made of the deposit site of approximately 165 acres so that operation of the borrow pit could be planned in a way that would not disturb the community, the manager said. All operations, he continued, will be according to the conditions of the permit, and actual operation will be limited to an area of only six acres exposed at any one time.

Installation of facilities and equipment has been going on quietly for some months and is now complete, Harris said.

Road Surfaced A private road leading to the deposit site was graded and surfaced to prevent dust being raised by passing vehicles. On this road, next to the building stone plant and the old radar station, Great Lakes Carbon Corp. installed a weighing and cleaning station for loaded trucks, including a 100,000-gallon water storage tank.

The water system to supply the operation is in itself a considerable project. Over a mile of pipe was laid, leading to the storage tank and on past this to the deposit site. Frequent sprinkling with water over the working area of the deposit will be carried on. After leaving the deposit, a truck loaded with diatomite will stop at the "truck shower" station where by means of an ingenious automatic spray all diatomite will be washed from the body and running gear. Top of the truck will be tightly closed with a canvas cover.

Tank Installed The large storage tank was installed so that water can be drawn from it during the working day with a minimum connection directly from the public supply mains. This is to prevent lowered pressure for home supply, Harris said. Storage in the water tank will be replenished by night pumping.

Planting of the trees and shrubs to screen the deposit site is completed. The planting is in a band approximately 150 feet wide and completely surrounds the deposit site.

Facilities Complete This installation of facilities and equipment is unusually complete for an operation of this type, Harris declared.

"Using ideas developed during the preliminary survey and engineering work, we are going further than originally planned," he said. "We want to be a good neighbor besides meeting obligations assumed when our permit was granted."

## New Fire Truck Now on Display

Vital statistics of the new \$23,789 model pumper fire-truck delivered Monday at the Torrance Fire Dept. were released yesterday by Fire Chief J. J. Bonner.

The 10 tons of polished fire-fighting equipment will carry 2500 feet of hose. Its pump will shoot forth water at the rate of 1250 gallons per minute, and a deck nozzle mounted behind the cab can send forth 1100 gallons of water per minute.



OPERATION DIATOMITE . . . Above is low-level airplane view of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. diatomite deposit on Radar Hill, where stripping of top soil and overburden preparatory to removing the diatomite began this month. Operation started near the clump of trees, which is actually higher than the hills in the background although the angle of the photograph makes it appear lower. Diatomite will be processed at the Dicalite mill near Walteria.

## Highway Patrol to Check 'Slow Poke' Drivers, Too

The familiar black and white automobiles of the California Highway Patrol will be in evidence more than ever over the coming Labor Day holiday, according to B. R. Caldwell, Highway Patrol Commissioner, who emphasized that orders to patrolmen deal particularly with control of those who drive too fast, too slow or who drive while under the influence of alcohol.

Every piece of equipment and every available officer will be on the road," Caldwell said. "We know from experience there will be heavy traffic as people take their last vacation trips and we will be prepared for them."

"Our advice is for motorists to plan their trips carefully so they will not be forced to drive too long or too fast. In either case it could lead to trouble."

Caldwell pointed to the dangers surrounding "slow poke" drivers who cause traffic delays and incite other drivers to commit unsafe acts.

## City Adopts New Tax Ordinance

A city ordinance which raises Torrance taxes 3½ cents was adopted by the City Council this week. The 1954-55 tax rate will be \$1.19 as compared to \$1.155 last year.

The boost is to be used to return bonds for the fire department and recreation department improvements voted by Torrance voters last spring. The city was able to expand its services without adding to the tax rolls because of the huge jump in assessed valuations, City Manager George Stevens said.

The tax revenue will be divided as follows: general fund, \$1; retirement, 10.5 cents; and library fund, 5 cents.

## Thieves Get \$1300 Worth of Valuables

Articles valued at \$1300 were stolen from his car Sunday while he was swimming at Torrance Beach, Dr. R. M. Marshall of San Francisco reported to Torrance Police.

Among the items stolen were a wallet containing \$128, a \$1000 diamond ring and a \$200 woman's wrist watch.

## Deadline for Registration Set Tonight

Today is the deadline to register to vote in the special election on Oct. 19 for a new civic center and swimming pool, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced Monday.

Registration booths at the City Hall will be open until 9 o'clock this evening, Bartlett said. They open at 8 o'clock this morning to accept registrations.

Voters may call the City Hall to find the address of the Registrar of Voters located closest to their homes.

The special election has been called to pass bonds which would pay for a new civic center and swimming pool. These proposals were defeated by a narrow margin in the spring.

## Crash Stops Traffic At 190th and Vermont

A collision involving four cars yesterday afternoon tied up traffic at 190th St. and Vermont Ave., but no one was seriously hurt.

Involved in the crash were Genevieve Moncrief, of Los Angeles, Douglas Aircraft workers Virginia Brown, Artesia, and George Walker Rivera, and Arrowhead Puritas employee James Halfpapp, of Hawthorne.



AWAIT REUNION . . . Shown together before the intricacies of immigration red tape separated them are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Allen, of 1523 Beech Ave. President Ellen-hower's signature is awaited on a special Congressional bill which would clear the way for Mrs. Allen's return from Canada.